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PATENT

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: RÜDINGER ET AL - 5 PCT

SERIAL NO: 10/009,507 GROUP: 1764

FILED: DECEMBER 5, 2001

TITLE: PROCESS FOR THE SEPARATION AND PURIFICATION OF AN
AQUEOUS MIXTURE COMPRISING THE MAIN COMPONENTS
ACETIC ACID AND FORMIC ACID

SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
OF DR. ROBERT FRÄNKEL

MAIL STOP NON FEE AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Patent Examiner the attached Information Disclosure Statement, duly signed by Dr. Robert Fränkel, and the twenty-one (21) references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and attached thereto.

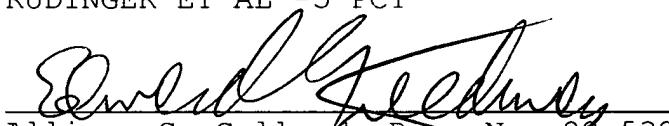
The relevance of these references is that they are cited in the Specification and the International Search Report and may be material to the examination of the application.

Since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to a first Office Action, it is believed that no fee is due. However, if it is determined that a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or to credit any over payment, to our Deposit Account Number 03-2468.

It is respectfully requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered and placed into the application file.

Respectfully submitted,

RÜDINGER ET AL -5 PCT

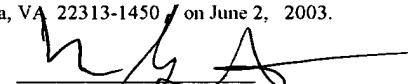


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Enclosures: 1) Information Disclosure Statement Of Dr. Robert Fränkel
2) PTO-form 1449 w/copies of 21 references
3) International Search Report

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, P.O.BOX 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 2, 2003.



Maria Guastella

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

RUEDINGER ET AL. - 5 (PCT)

Serial Number: 10/009,507

Group Art Unit: 1764

Filed: December 5, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR THE SEPARATION AND PURIFICATION OF AN AQUEOUS MIXTURE COMPRISING THE MAIN COMPONENTS ACETIC ACID AND FORMIC ACID

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Information Disclosure Statement

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir or Madam:

I, Robert Fränkel, associated with the preparation and prosecution of the above-identified application, residing at Krottenkopfstr. 10, 81377 München, Germany, wish to call the attention of the Patent Examiner to the references enumerated on the enclosed PTO Form-1449.

I believe the documents enumerated on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and attached thereto, are cited in the enclosed application and in the International Search Report and may be material to the examination of the application.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing Information Disclosure Statement be considered by the Examiner and incorporated into the file of this application.

I wish to comment as follows concerning the prior art references enumerated on PTO Form-1449:

DE 1 204 214 is only available in German language. It describes a process to isolate colorless formic acid from acetic acid containing oxidation products obtained by oxidation of saturated hydrocarbons or mixtures with cycloaliphatic hydrocarbons.

US 5,633,402 is already in English language.

For DE 44 26 132 an English Derwent Abstract is enclosed.

EP 0 635 474 is already in English language.

For DE 196 10 356 the corresponding US 5,662,780 is enclosed.

US 5,173,156 is already in English language.

US 5,006,205 is already in English language.

US 4,877,490 is already in English language.

US 4,935,100 is already in English language.

For EP 0 156 309 the corresponding CA 1,238,919 is enclosed.

For EP 0 012 321 the corresponding US 4,262,140 is enclosed.

Standford Research Institute, *Process Economics Program 1973*, Report No. 37A , is already in English language.

W. Hunsmann, K. H. Simmrock, *Chemie-Ing.-Tech.* **1966**, 38, 1053-1059 is only available in German language. Hunsmann et al. describe the separation of a ternary mixture of water, acetic acid and formic acid by azeotropic distillation with a heavier ether.

GB 788,931 is already in English language.

EP 0 732 320 is already in English language.

GB 727,078 is already in English language.

GB 771,992 is already in English language.

Signed this 8th day of January, 2002.


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Dr. Robert Fränkel